



Matthew Smith

Professor of German Studies and of Theater and Performance Studies

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Matthew Wilson Smith's interests include modern theatre and relations between science, technology, and the arts. His book *The Nervous Stage: 19th-century Neuroscience and the Birth of Modern Theatre* (Oxford, 2017) explores historical intersections between theatre and neurology and traces the construction of a "neural subject" over the course of the nineteenth century. It was a finalist for the George Freedley Memorial Award of the Theater Library Association. His previous book, *The Total Work of Art: From Bayreuth to Cyberspace* (Routledge, 2007), presents a history and theory of attempts to unify the arts; the book places such diverse figures as Wagner, Moholy-Nagy, Brecht, Riefenstahl, Disney, Warhol, and contemporary cyber-artists within a coherent genealogy of multimedia performance. He is the editor of *Georg Büchner: The Major Works*, which appeared as a Norton Critical Edition in 2011, and the co-editor of *Modernism and Opera* (Johns Hopkins, 2016), which was shortlisted for an MSA Book Prize. His essays on theater, opera, film, and virtual reality have appeared widely, and his work as a playwright has appeared at the Eugene O'Neill Musical Theater Conference, Richard Foreman's *Ontological-Hysteric Theater*, and other stages. He previously held professorships at Cornell University and Boston University as well as visiting positions at Columbia University and Johannes Gutenberg-Universität (Mainz).

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, German Studies
- Professor, Theater and Performance Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Theater & Performance Studies, Stanford University, (2019- present)
- Professor, Departments of German Studies and Theatre & Performance Studies, Stanford University, (2018- present)
- Associate Professor, Departments of German Studies and Theatre & Performance Studies, Stanford University, (2013-2018)
- Faculty Fellow, Cornell Society for the Humanities, (2012-2013)
- Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Cornell University, (2011-2013)
- Faculty Member, Harvard University, Mellon School of Theatre and Performance Research, (2011-2011)
- Associate Professor, Department of English, Boston University, (2009-2012)
- Junior Faculty Fellow, Boston University Center for the Humanities, (2005-2006)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, (2004-2005)
- Assistant Professor, Department of English, Boston University, (2002-2009)
- Instructor, American Studies Department, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, (2000-2001)
- Instructor, Columbia University, (1997-2000)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Editorial Board, Modern Drama
- Submissions Reader, Routledge (Theatre and Performance Studies lists)
- Submissions Reader, Northwestern University Press (Performance Studies list)
- Submissions Reader, PMLA
- Submissions Reader, Theatre Topics
- Submissions Reader, Contemporary Literature
- Submissions Reader, Forum Modernes Theater (Germany)
- Chair of Undergraduate Studies, German Studies, Stanford University (2013 - present)
- Member, DAAD Application Review Committee, Cornell University (2011 - 2012)
- Course Leader for Graduate Student Instructors, Cornell University (2011 - 2012)
- Member, Humanities Curriculum Committee, Boston University (2010 - 2011)
- Chair, Humanities Curriculum Committee, Boston University (2011 - 2011)
- Member, Humanities Foundation Executive Committee, Boston University (2010 - 2011)
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English, Boston University (2008 - 2011)
- Member, Curriculum Review Committee, Department of English, Boston University (2007 - 2008)
- Member, Curriculum Review Committee, Department of English, Boston University (2010 - 2011)
- Member, Directorial Committee, Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts, Boston University (2008 - 2009)
- Member, Merit Committee, Department of English, Boston University (2008 - 2008)
- Member, Merit Committee, Department of English, Boston University (2009 - 2009)
- Acting Associate Chair, Department of English, Boston University (2007 - 2007)
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Boston University (2005 - 2006)
- Co-organizer, Tertulia Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Hiring Committee, British Modernism & Women's Studies, Boston University (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Hiring Committee, Contemporary American Fiction, Boston University (2003 - 2004)
- Member, CAS Academic Conduct Committee, Boston University (2003 - 2003)
- Chair, Fitzgerald Translation Prize Committee, Boston University (2003 - 2003)
- Judge, KCACTF Region 1 Dramaturgy Prize (2009 - 2009)
- Program Notes Author, "Brecht's Edward II," Red Bull Theatre, NYC (2008 - 2008)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Thought and Literature

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Columbia University , English and Comparative Literature (Theatre Subcommittee) (2002)
- M.A., Columbia University , English and Comparative Literature (Theatre Subcommittee) (1997)
- M.A., University of Chicago , Religion (1995)
- B.A., Brown University , History (1993)

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Graduate Studies Colloquium: GERMAN 397 (Aut, Spr)
- World Theater History: TAPS 301 (Aut, Win)

2024-25

- German Studies Lecture Series: GERMAN 396 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- German Theater from Schiller to Brecht: GERMAN 246, GERMAN 346, TAPS 246, TAPS 346 (Spr)
- Nietzsche and the Search for Meaning: GERMAN 57N (Aut)
- World Theater History: TAPS 301 (Aut, Win)

2023-24

- German Literature 3: Modernity and the Unspeakable: GERMAN 232, GERMAN 332 (Spr)
- Nietzsche and the Search for Meaning: GERMAN 57N (Aut)
- World Theater History: TAPS 301 (Aut, Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Abidemi Jimoh

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Esther von Stosch

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Daniel Jackson

Doctoral (Program)

Gayoung Lee

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Nervous Stage: Nineteenth-Century Neuroscience and the Birth of Modern Theater (Book Review)** *NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE*
Book Review Authored by: Meeuwis, M.
2018; 73 (1): 135–37
- **Georg Büchner, J.M.W. Turner, and the Materiality of the Senses** *Georg Büchner: Contemporary Perspectives*
Smith, M. W.
Brill.2017: 344–353
- **Structural origins of broadband emission from layered Pb–Br hybrid perovskites** *Chemical Science*
Smith, M. D., Jaffe, A., Dohner, E. R., Lindenberg, A. M., Karunadasa, H. I.
2017: 4497–4504
- **Streamlined Synthesis of Polycyclic Conjugated Hydrocarbons Containing Cyclobutadienoids via C–H Activated Annulation and Aromatization** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY*
Jin, Z., Teo, Y. C., Zulaybar, N. G., Smith, M. D., Xia, Y.

2017; 139: 1806–1809

- **Wagner and Neuroaesthetics** *Transformative Aesthetics*
Smith, M. W.
Routledge.2017: 129–144
- **Modernism and Opera** *MODERNISM AND OPERA*
edited by Begam, R., Smith, M. W.
2016: 1–378
- **Restoration Dramas: Hofmannsthal's The Great World Theater of Salzburg and Cocteau's Antigone 1922: LITERATURE, CULTURE, POLITICS**
Smith, M.
edited by Rabate, J. M.
2015: 183–95
- **Tannhäuser und das demokratische Gefühl im Amerika des Gilded Age** *Tannhäuser—Werkstatt der Gefühle*,
Smith, M. W.
Rombach.2014: 201–210
- **The Theatre of the Bauhaus: The Modern and Postmodern Stage of Oskar Schlemmer (Book Review)** *MODERN DRAMA*
Book Review Authored by: Smith, M. W.
2012; 55 (1): 162-164
- **Georg Büchner: The Major Works**
edited by Smith, M. W.
New York: Norton.2012
- **GESAMTKUNSTWERK AND GLITCH Robert Lepage's Ring across Media** *THEATER*
Smith, M.
2012; 42 (2): 65–77
- **Victorian Railway Accident and the Melodramatic Imagination** *MODERN DRAMA*
Smith, M. W.
2012; 55 (4): 497-522
- **Total Theatre, Total Art, Total Market** *Scene Shifts*
Smith, M. W.
edited by Arrhenius, S., Berg, M., Florin, M.
Stockholm: Albert Bonnier.2011: 174–180
- **LIQUID WALLS The Digital Art of Tamiko Thiel** *PAJ-A JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE AND ART*
Smith, M. W.
2010: 25-34
- **Bernard Shaw: A Life (Book Review)** *MODERN DRAMA*
Book Review Authored by: Smith, M. W.
2008; 51 (2): 300-302
- **American valkyries: Richard Wagner, D.W. Griffith, and the birth of classical cinema** *MODERNISM-MODERNITY*
Smith, M. W.
2008; 15 (2): 221-242
- **Orson Welles** *The Routledge Companion to Directors' Shakespeare*
Smith, M. W.
edited by Brown, J. R.
New York and London: Routledge.2008: 493–508
- **The Wild Duck: A Play of Play** *Drama Criticism*
Smith, M. W.

Detroit, MI: Gale Cengage.2008

- **Print and the poetics of modern drama. (Book Review) THEATRE SURVEY**
Book Review Authored by: Smith, M.
2007; 48 (1): 202-206
- **Poetry of the revolution: Marx, manifestos, and the avant-gardes. (Book Review) THEATRE SURVEY**
Book Review Authored by: Smith, M.
2007; 48 (1): 202-206
- **The Total Work of Art: From Bayreuth to Cyberspace**
Smith, M. W.
New York and London: Routledge.2007
- **The Total Work of Art: From Bayreuth to Cyberspace**
Smith, M. W.
Routledge.2007
- **Laughing at the Redeemer: Kundry and the Paradox of Parsifal Modernist Cultures**
Smith, M. W.
edited by Begam, R.
2007: 5–25
- **Bayreuth, Disneyland, and the Return to Nature Modern Drama: Critical Concepts**
Smith, M. W.
edited by Puchner, M.
London and New York: Routledge.2007: 349–71
- **All theater is revolutionary theater. (Book Review) GERMAN QUARTERLY**
Book Review Authored by: Smith, M.
2006; 79 (2): 284-285
- **Vocal apparitions: The attraction of cinema to opera (Book Review) OPERA QUARTERLY**
Book Review Authored by: Smith, M. W.
2006; 22 (1): 170-172
- **Scenography Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance**
Smith, M. W.
Oxford: Oxford University Press.2003: 1193
- **Scenery Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance**
Smith, M. W.
Oxford: Oxford University Press.2003: 1196–1209
- **The Weight of History: Max Frisch's Andorra at the Lucille Lortel Theater**
Smith, M. W.
2003; 33 (1): 77-78
- **The 'Wild Duck': A play of play (Ibsen) MODERN DRAMA**
Smith, M. W.
2002; 45 (1): 9-22
- **Bayreuth, Disneyland, and the Return to Nature Land/Scape/Theater**
Smith, M. W.
edited by Chaudhuri, U., Fuchs, E.
Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.2002: 87–102
- **Schlemmer, Moholy-Nagy, and the search for the absolute stage (The Bauhaus Totaltheater project) THEATER**
Smith, M. W.
2002; 32 (3): 87-101

- **Joseph Urban and the Birth of American Film Design** *Architect of Dreams: The Theatrical Vision of Joseph Urban*
Smith, M. W.
edited by Aronson, A.
New York: Wallace Gallery, Columbia University.2000: 48–55
- **'Angels in America' - A progressive apocalypse (Tony Kushner)** *THEATER*
Smith, M. W.
1999; 29 (3): 152-165